

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs

New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



Kim Guadagno Lt. Governor

October 1, 2010

THOMAS R. CALCAGNI Acting Director

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 45014 Newark, NJ 07101 (973) 504-6455

By Certified and Regular Mail

Louis Campasano, P.T. 810 Jenny Court Brick, New Jersey 08724

Re: Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Filing a Formal Disciplinary Complaint

Dear Mr. Campasano:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information concerning the physical therapy services that you provided to E Z at Cooper Rehabilitation. Specifically, the information reviewed included Ms. Z patient record and your testimony from the inquiry held on August 9, 2005 which you attended with your attorney, Michael Keating.

Ms. Za alleges that she was injured while performing a new exercise which was not supervised or instructed by a therapist. Additionally, Ms. Za alleges that on more than one occasion she was instructed in the performance of new exercises by an aide.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you violated N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and N.J.A.C. 13: 39A-2.4(b) 1 and 6 in that you testified that you trained 15 - 19 aides at this facility to assist patients, prepare patients and to help and advise patients with their exercises which is contrary to the delegation regulation which prohibits a physical therapist from permitting an unlicensed person to engage in the advising, teaching or instructing patients concerning their condition or disability and from instructing and or performing therapeutic exercises and or therapeutic activity.

The patient's record indicates on the June 10, 2004 progress note that the patient "presented with an air cast and reported that she can begin full weight bearing activities." It was your testimony that you did not communicate with the patient's physician to confirm what she reported. Furthermore, you testified that while you personally showed Ms. Zhow to perform the particular exercise, the first time that she performed the weight bearing exercise she was put on the dina disc and supervised by an aide. Additionally, you admitted that it was not appropriate for an aide to put the patient on a particular exercise the first time that she was attempting to perform it.

At this juncture, the Board has preliminarily concluded that the above violations are sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that decision, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

- 1. The issuance of a reprimand for the improper delegation of therapeutic exercise to an unlicensed aide.
- 2. Cease and desist in the future from delegating to aides the instruction or performance of therapeutic exercise and or therapeutic activity in violation of N.J.A.C. 13: 39A-2.4.
- 3. Pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$500.00 (to be paid immediately upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter) Payment shall be sent to the attention of Lisa Affinito, Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, P.O. Box 45014, Newark, New Jersey, 07101.
- 4. Pay costs incurred by the Board in the amount of \$256.50 to be paid immediately upon the signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this page and to be sent as set forth in paragraph #3.

If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. Upon your signature, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order, requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you have Mr. Keating contact Deputy Attorney General Carmen A. Rodriguez, who may be reached at (973) 648-3696.

If you elect to settle this matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement proceedings.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

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Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, Louis Campasano, P.T., hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of \$500. and \$256.50 for a total of \$756.50 (to be paid upon signing of this acknowledgment) and to accept the reprimand as detailed above.

Louis Campasano, P.T.

Dated:

cc: Michael Keating, Esquire

Carmen A. Rodriguez, Deputy Attorney General